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Richards of the Public Safety Administration office of the Airport Police at (734) 247-7212.

Rehabilitation center hosts blood drive

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

The amount of blood hospitals have on hand to handle emergencies isn't something most people think about until they - or someone they care about - has an accident.

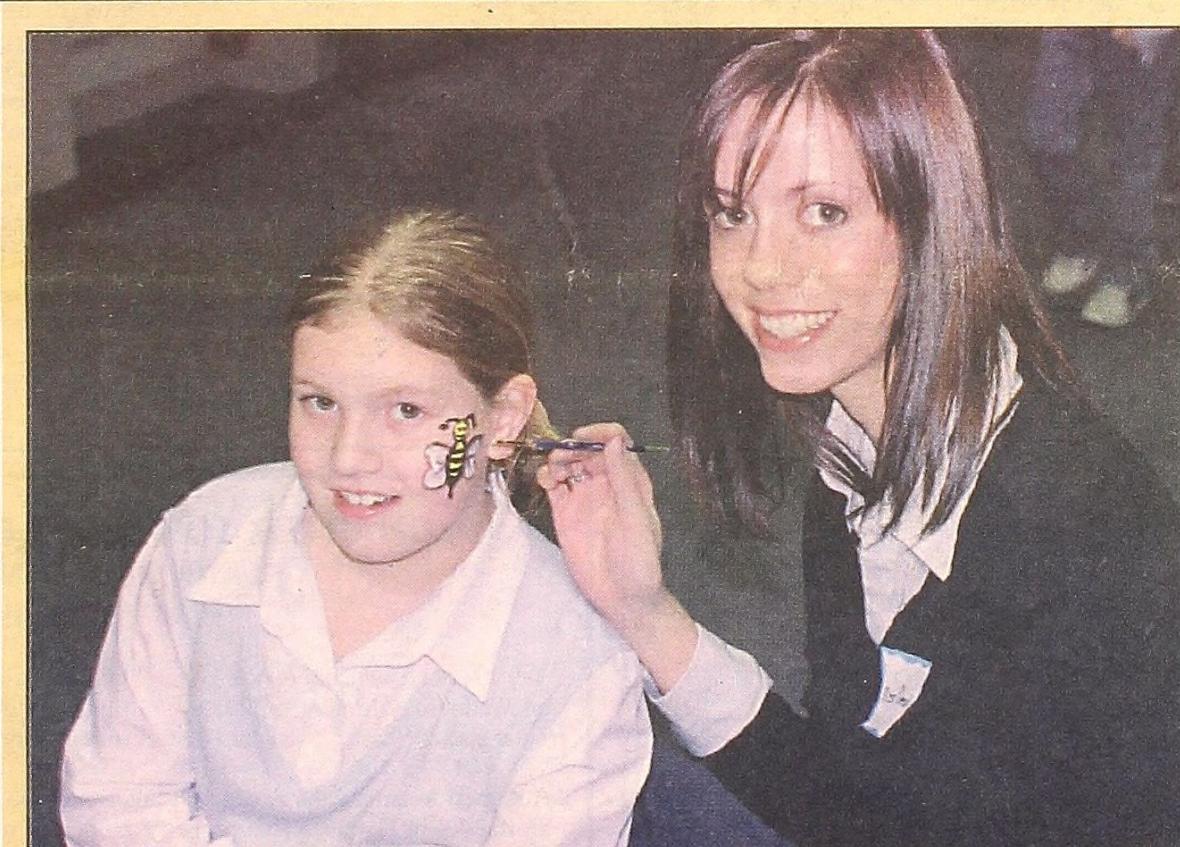
That's why the Special Tree Rehabilitation System will host its Fifth Annual Blood Drive from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Romulus on March 7. The effort is coordinated by the American Red Cross, and will take place in the Blood Mobile.

The Bloodmobile is a refurbished recreation vehicle that boasts all the modern conveniences of a stand-alone blood unit, said Irene Sloan, the blood drive coordinator and corporate secretary for the Special Tree Rehabilitation System.

"We are hoping for a larger number of donors this year," she said. "According to Red Cross statistics, someone needs blood every two seconds, and an auto accident victim may need up to 50 units of red blood cells. As a healthcare organization, we feel it's important to get the word out and support the Red Cross in getting blood donations."

Most years, the blood drive yields about 25 pints of blood. But last year, the effort only garnered 13 pints of blood for area accident victims, said Jennifer Rusinowski, the communications manager for the organization.

See Blood, page 3



Making faces

Face painting was one of several activities students enjoyed at Haledale Elementary School Family Fun Night. The event last week allowed students to take a break from everyday lessons and learn new skills in a warm and creative environment, district officials said. Here, student teacher Nicole Demksi, a student teacher from Western Michigan University, took time out to paint a bumblebee on the face of one of her students, Carly Paul. Other activities for students and parents included sports and games, as well as assorted art projects.

Charter school introduces young learning class

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Rita Burd wishes she had something like the new "Young Fives" program when she enrolled her daughter, Alicia, now 8 years old, in kindergarten at the Metro Charter Academy in Romulus.

"There really is a difference between the ages and levels of maturity in kids," she said. "I think maybe kindergarten was a little too much for her. She was stubborn; she didn't let us teach

her too much at home."

Students like Alicia Burd will now have the option of enrolling in Young Fives, a program designed by National Heritage Academies to teach children not quite 5 years old - or not quite ready for kindergarten - in an environment more suited to their needs.

Andrew Cook, the principal of the K-8 school, said the new program would be launched in August, when the school year starts. "We're excited about this

program because we think it is right for many students," he said. "We will have a testing date to determine which students would fit into the Young Fives program and which would be better suited for kindergarten. But of course it is (the parent's) option on which one they'd like their child to attend."

Young Fives would be set up much like the traditional half-day kindergarten or Head Start pro-

See School, page 3

See Racino, page 3

Fundraiser to benefit area families

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The Community Assistance Fundraiser (CAF) 34 wants people to try their luck at the Greektown Casino in order to generate funds for community residents in need.

The organization will host a casino fundraiser at 6 p.m. on Feb. 26.

The CAF 34 is a charitable foundation organized to assist children and families in need in the communities of Belleville, Romulus, Huron Township,

Sumpter Township and Van Buren Township. This year the group is concentrating on a prescription drug voucher program available in school districts within the 34th District Court boundaries.

According to co-founder Bob Thorne, the organization is hoping to raise at least \$4,000, which would meet the needs of the prescription drug program.

"When we approached the school district with the idea, it was brought to our attention that people were in need of prescriptions. So we decided it was a hole

in the social network that we would like to fill," he said.

School children whose families cannot afford prescription drugs or do not have medical insurance may receive assistance through school leaders. The CAF 34 committee helps with finding pharmacies willing to volunteer prescriptions, according to the organization.

"We are not an organization that has a big principal amount of money," said Thorne.

The CAF 34 started five years ago when a Belleville cancer patient—Shannon Spicer—need-

ed money to pay for her medical bills. Since then, the group has helped several other area residents.

Tickets for the Feb. 26 trip are on sale now. They are \$25 per person and those attending must be 21 or older. The ticket price includes transportation, \$15 of casino tokens and a \$10 meal coupon, and can be purchased by calling Judge Brian Oakley at 734-941-4462 ext. 205.

"Many people don't even know we exist. We just want to make a difference for other people," added Thorne.

Romulus briefs

Youth group receives grant

The Prevention Network's "Youth in Action" group received a \$4,000 grant to help defray the costs of administering its anti-tobacco use campaign. The "Looking at it Differently" project is a group of concerned community leaders and parents who conduct workshops in Romulus aimed at discouraging tobacco use by children and teenagers. The group will use the money for training, technical assistance and program development, according to information released by the organization. For more information about the program, call Arthur Willis or Gina Wilson at (734) 728-1273.

Pet immunizations scheduled

The City of Romulus Animal Shelter has scheduled the annual dog and cat inoculations from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27 at the Department of Public Works Building, 12600 Wayne Road. Rabies vaccines are \$10 for dogs and cats. A veterinarian will be on hand to answer pet owner's questions.

City offices, court closed

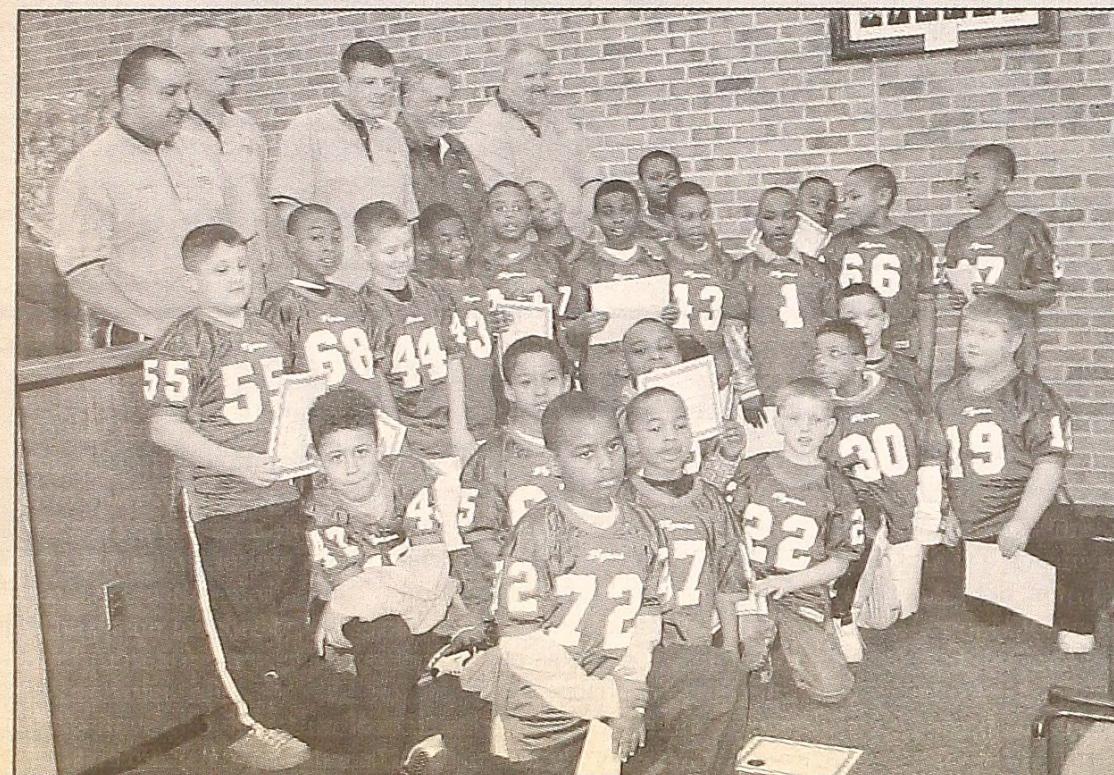
The Romulus City Hall and the 34th District Court will be closed on Monday, Feb. 21, in observance of President's Day. City offices and the court will re-open at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 22. For more information, please call the city at (734) 942-7571 or the 34th District Court at (734) 277-8200.

Arts, music fundraiser

Romulus residents interested in helping students explore the arts will have an opportunity to donate to a school fundraiser to help high- and middle-school students. Beginning the week of March 7, a company called Amerifund will call Romulus residents between the hours of 3-9 p.m. to solicit donations to raise money for the Romulus Performing Arts and Choir curriculum. The funds will be used to upgrade facilities, purchase new equipment and materials and plan student activities.

Residents who participate will have a choice of purchasing pizzas, cookies, coffee, fudge, cookies, tool sets, candleholders, light bulbs and fire extinguishers.

For more information, call Marva Hatcher at (734) 532-1063.



Good sports

Coaches and players of the Romulus Flyers Football Team received certificates of recognition from Mayor Alan R. Lambert recently for their outstanding achievements in winning the 2004 Junior Football AFC championship. They were recognized at a ceremony last week. Pictured with the players from left to right are: assistant coaches Jerome Frayer, Dale Eddings and Tom Kuderick with Mayor Alan R. Lambert and Head Coach Stephen Bednar.

School - Early starts can help youngsters succeed in regular classes

FROM PAGE 1

gram, Cook said. There would be morning and afternoon sessions, and students would learn simple concepts like counting, writing their name, and some social studies lessons designed to prepare the child for kindergarten.

Cook said most of the students enrolled in the program would be children with late birthdays—the one that are typically the

youngest in their class.

Metro Charter Academy will have four or five kindergarten classes and possibly one Young Fives class, Cook said. Students will receive a report card measuring general knowledge, verbal skills, fine and major motor skills and reading and math readiness.

Enrollment in the program will be contingent on several factors, including a lottery at the school because demand is always

larger than the number of available seats. The school also has a "sibling provision" that allows parents with one student attending classes at the school to enroll another automatically.

Enrollment forms for students are due back in the school offices by Feb. 28. The lottery will take place at 4 p.m. in the gymnasium on March 22. Parents who are selected will not need to be present if their names are chosen.

Burd said she's interested in the Young Fives program for her youngest daughter, Haley, who is 4 years old.

"I think she might still be a little young for kindergarten next year," she said. "But I'll be curious to see where her test scores are."

For more information about the program, call the Metro Charter Academy at (734) 641-3200.

Blood - Need often outweighs supply, donors needed throughout area

FROM PAGE 1

"We're hoping to collect more this time around," she said. "It's been estimated that one pint of blood will help save the lives of three people, so that's 75 people helped with just the 25. We'd like to do better this year."

This year, the Bloodmobile

will be parked in front of Special Tree's NeuroCare Center, located at 39000 Chase Road in Romulus. Special Tree serves people with life-threatening and debilitating brain injuries and spinal cord injuries in Belleville, Romulus and New Boston, Rusinowski said. The center provides physical therapy to

patients of all ages. Most center clients have been injured in automobile accidents, she added.

The blood drive will commemorate National Brain Injury Awareness Month, and each donor will receive a wristband to help publicize the needs of people suffering from brain injuries.

Donors must bring a valid Michigan driver's license to donate blood. Donors must be 17 years old and weigh at least 110 pounds and must not have donated blood in the last 56 days.

To schedule an appointment to donate blood, call Sloan (734) 941-1142, ext. 114 or e-mail her at irenesloan@specialtree.com.

Track - New commissioner must review files before issuing license

FROM PAGE 1

of the meetings with the city and county; all of the public hearings. She's going to have to familiarize herself with every aspect of this application."

Bowes added that he didn't think the delays would be abnormally long because much of the leg work is done. Geake OK'd the transfer of Magenta Entertainment's existing license

to operate a harness racing track in Muskegon to Richmond Racing last year, which clears the way for the group to apply for a new license in Romulus. Michigan law states that one entity cannot own two licenses in the state.

Romulus officials are pinning hope for an economic revitalization on the comprehensive plan, which in addition to a horse track would include a theater and

some retail and commercial projects, and new homes on a parcel of land north of Detroit Metropolitan Airport. Lambert said the city is interested in moving the project along as soon as possible. The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians is also planning to build a casino near the racetrack.

"We have so many things that are positive going on in the city, and this is one of them," he said.

"These projects are going to be very beneficial to the city."

Bowes said he understands that some officials are worrying, however.

"They are vying with several other companies throughout the state for one license," he said. "We've had conversations with people at the county about this, and we've assured them the process will move along as quickly as it can."

OPINION

Hello, anybody there?

The deadline to file for candidacy in school board elections has come and gone and it's caused us to once again ask a simple question:

Where is everybody?

We would have thought that, at a time when school funding comes under increased scrutiny and parents, unions and school officials alike are concerned about the bottom line, potential layoffs and services to their children, we'd see a crowded field of community-minded individuals.

Not so.

The school board races in Northville, Plymouth-Canton and Westland are uncontested. In Inkster-Edison, only one incumbent filed for two open seats - the other will be apparently vacant until a member is appointed. The only places where candidates face a re-election or election campaign is in Romulus, where four people seek two seats, and Van Buren, where two seek one.

The one good thing to come out of such a lack of interest in these elections is that it will give municipal clerks - who are handling school elections for the first time on May 3 - a chance to try out the new system under relatively low pressure.

Even so, we think that is a very minor silver lining in a huge gray cloud. We were encouraged to see such a positive response from district officials and parents during a recent town hall type meeting designed to put the spotlight on additional school funding, and send a message to state legislators that parents do, indeed care. Early projections from the state show that district will most likely receive an increase in per pupil funding this year, but that fight is far from over.

And if it goes badly, those who don't run for office, who limit their ability to effect change, will have to assume part of the blame.

Move ahead or move along

Those familiar to the Plymouth political scene might remember the circumstances that sparked the development of the Sheldon Road Underpass project.

They might recall a brief, perhaps 20 minute meeting during which city commissioners got together with township trustees and decided to pursue the underpass project, a joint public safety dispatch department and continued funding of the Plymouth Community Fire Department. It was a feel-good meeting, the supposed start of increased collaboration, and there was much rejoicing, afterward.

For those who don't remember, well, that's OK - it was quite a while ago, after all.

About six years later, that initial rejoicing about the underpass project has turned to sour frustration and impatience, and nary a shovel has been seen. We have word from officials in Wayne County that it is close to the construction phase, but even those involved from the city and township are a bit skeptical, to say the least.

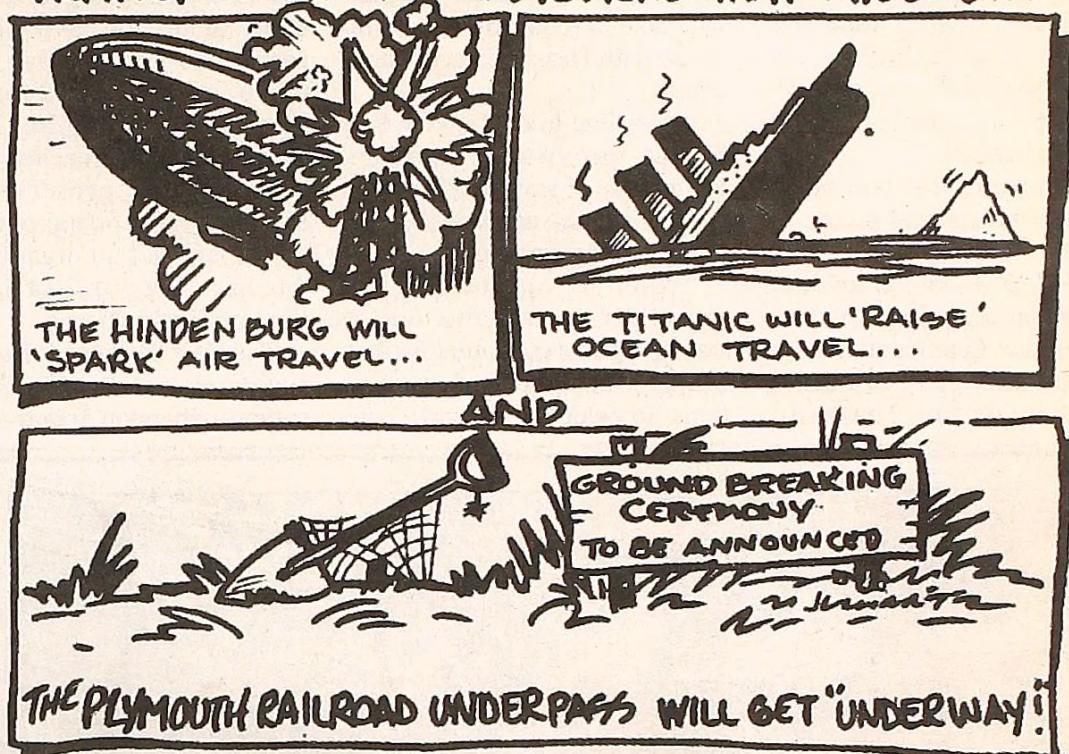
Since the inception of the project, several things have happened to jeopardize it. The biggest is that the economy has nose-dived, and funds are drying up in municipalities around the state. Those monies set aside for the project could be well-spent elsewhere in both the city and the township - it's like a passing up the Ramen noodles on a trip to the grocery store, looking for a caviar section that you're not even sure is there.

Now, officials in the City of Plymouth are looking for a way to get out of the agreement, and that's caused some frustration for their township counterparts - and no doubt some concern from county officials, too.

Like them, we think this project has dragged on a bit too long. And,

See Decision, page 5

TRANSPORTATION PREDICTIONS THAT MISSED...



Can they do it? Time will tell

You might think it's hard to stay optimistic about the future of Wayne when your office window looks out on a vacant, litter-strewn mud pit, but that's actually not the case.

The fact that the lot is vacant is, to some, a sign of progress - a more welcome sight than the slowly crumbling former Nankin Hospital that gradually changed from a stately old building into a blighted home for vandals, transients and miscreants.

It's one of quite a few things that happened last year that showed the city was nibbling away at the blight issue, working toward a better city, and it's one of the reasons I think this will be a good year, here.

Now is the time when most cities are preparing their budgets for the upcoming fiscal year, and when officials are looking down the road to see what they want to accomplish in the short and long term. Officials in Wayne, like other cities, have put forth some really interesting ideas for projects to help move their city forward. There are park projects proposed, road and sewer work that needs to be done and, of course, everybody wants more staffing.

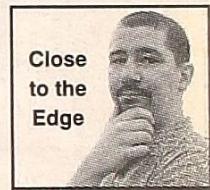
The biggest surprise - at least

for me - came from the Community Development Department, where director Peter McInerney (and staff) suggested several land acquisition and building renovation or demolition proposals that would dramatically change the appearance of the downtown. Perhaps I merely paid more attention to his list of goals than other departments, because I spend so much time driving (or walking) through downtown, checking out which buildings I would try to transform if I had an inkling of architectural creativity and all the money in the world.

Before I go any further I should point out, again, that everything talked about during recent goal-setting sessions in Wayne is just a wish list at this point; there are no definitive plans to purchase any property, no contracts out for demolition - not even any deals on the table.

Even so, the fact that the city is looking at some of these things holds a number of interesting possibilities. What if they could purchase some of these troublesome properties, get the recalcitrant landlords out of the way, better market the property and turn eyesores into attractions?

It might be that they only need



Close to the Edge
by Scott Spielman

See Blight, page 5

Think about the gift of life

All of us expect that if we're ever in an accident or develop a serious illness and need blood, it'll be there. Unfortunately, while there's a continuing need for donated blood, only a fraction of people who can give blood actually do.

We have the same problem when it comes to organ donation. About 80,000 people await a life-saving transplant and, sadly, 18 die every day because a donor isn't found on time.

I'm not saying that donating blood or organs is for everyone. Certainly some people have good

reasons for not doing so. (Religious beliefs come to mind.) But I am saying that we all need to think about how we can "pitch in" to help meet the community's health needs. And donating blood and pledging to be an organ donor are great ways to do that.

For more information about blood and organ donation, visit www.redcross.org and www.michigan.gov. Take care of your health before it's lonnnngggg gone.

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the Detroit Tigers" for more than four



by Ernie Harwell

decades, retired after 55 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 87, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with "Miss Lulu," his wife of more than 60 years. His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns titled "Life After Baseball," is available at local bookstores or by calling 1-800-245-5082.

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The Journal Newspapers are published Thursdays
at 35540 Michigan Ave., Wayne, Michigan, 48184.
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Letters**Reader chides editor***To the editor;*

I am writing to you about an article written by you in the Jan. 20 edition of *The Journal Newspapers*, on page 5. The article was very good and eye-opening. However, there was one thing missing from your article that I believe is worth mentioning.

It is true that you dedicated the article, 'Bad experience is a good teacher,' to the good Samaritan that helped you, but the most important thing was missing in the article, that being

the 'thank you' that should have been given to him.

I feel it is very important to always thank people for their assistance. That is the Christian thing to do. That should have been the first lesson learned. Not all people ignore people in need of assistance. There are still some good people in this world who do not expect anything for a deed well done. This goes to say that there are people who "do onto others as they would have done to themselves."

I know you may not believe I have the right to voice an opin-

ion at all, and that is OK if that is how you feel. But I am 52 years old and raised by older values, which are better than most values of people today who want to take God out of everything. But we are supposed to treat people the way we want to be treated. This, to me, should have been reflected in your article. Not once did I see you thank him.

In addition, I hope you pay it forward and do good for someone else in their time of need. Just like the movie, it is a good thing to do, even in today's world.

Donna Trapani,
Plymouth

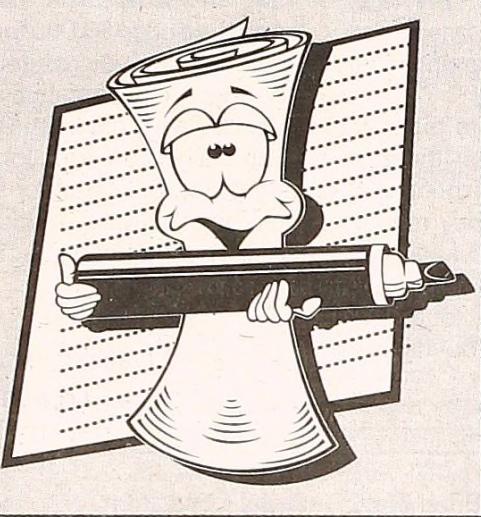
(EDITOR'S NOTE: We certainly believe that everyone has the right to voice their opinions – it's one of the things that makes this country such a great place to live. Regardless of whether you agree or disagree with any opinions published in this paper, or if you want to bring up some other issue, keep those letters coming!)

Send us your letters

The Journal Newspapers welcomes all letters to the editor. Letters should be addressed to: The Editor, The Journal Newspapers, 35540 Michigan Ave.,

Wayne, Michigan 48184. All letters will be considered for publication and may be edited for content, space and length.

Letters must be signed and a phone number included only for verification of the writer's identity. Addresses and phone numbers will be kept confidential.



Decision

FROM PAGE 4

like them, we know it's certainly a complicated undertaking, with plenty of potential pitfalls. Who could have guessed that the project designers would, for one reason or another, fall into each of them?

Recently, county engineers

have said that they will get this two-year project off the ground this year, come high water or, well, you get the idea. The question is, should this be taken as just another stall tactic, or a sign that things are truly dropping into line?

It's probably a bit of both, and we think officials in both communities should recognize that. The most important thing, here, is to not cling to hope that the project

will be complete or back out at the last minute and risk the relationship between these two integrally entwined entities. It might make more sense to work together to set a final deadline – say the end of this construction season – to get the project under way. If not, both the township and city would withdraw, together. Draft a joint resolution, approve it and send it downtown with the message: the clock is ticking.

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IN GOOD COMPANY (PG-13)

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FRI/SAT LS 11:50

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(SAT/SUN 11:10) 1:10, 3:10, 5:10

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (PG-13)

(SAT/SUN 10:50) 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30

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Blight

FROM PAGE 4

ment high rise into a moderate condominium complex? Will they be able to get rid of the Cadillac Apartments on Michigan Avenue?

Who knows, and only time will tell. For now, though, my optimism will be fueled by the thought that folks in city hall share some of these thoughts, that they're working toward a better downtown. I'll keep pushing for that first domino to fall.

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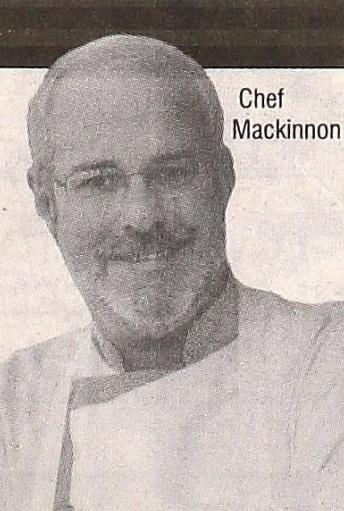
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Another key strategy is to build an emergency fund of between three to six months' worth of living expenses in a liquid account like a money market account. This safety net will keep you from incurring steep borrowing costs or being forced to sell long-term investments at a loss if you have a financial emergency.

You may want to consider making a 2004 contribution to an individual retirement account before the April 15th deadline. You can generally contribute up to \$3,000 for the 2004 tax year \$3,500 if you're age 50 or older. If you plan on contributing to a tax-deductible traditional IRA, you can even claim the deduction on your tax return and then wait for the refund to help pay for your contribution (as long as the contribution is made on or

before April 15, 2005).

Instead of spending your new raise after each paycheck, try saving the extra money in a workplace retirement account such as a 401(k) plan. Many employers will match a portion of your contribution, which is just like getting free money. Plus, your contributions will also reduce your taxable income, resulting in tax savings as well.

For more information please contact Fred at 734-455-1040...

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How Should You Receive a Life Insurance Payout?

Deciding how to take a life insurance benefit is a difficult choice. The size of a benefit proceed is usually substantial, and the timing of having to make such an important financial decision couldn't be worse. Therefore, you should regroup emotionally and understand your options before you do anything.

You have three basic alternatives: You can accept the lump sum, leave the money with the insurance company, or arrange for the insurance company to pay you a regular income.

The lump-sum payout is the simplest concept. You'd get a check and can invest it any way you wish.

The second method is to set up a retained-asset account with the insurance company. You would earn a rate of return on the death benefit that is similar to that of a bank checking account and could access the funds by writing a check.

But, if you are retired and are concerned about outliving your assets, you may want to look into one of the fixed-payment options.

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For more information, call Curt Whipple at (734) 844-3400.



Curt Whipple

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Deciding how to take a life insurance benefit is a difficult choice. The size of a benefit proceed is usually substantial, and the timing of having to make such an important financial decision couldn't be worse. Therefore, you should regroup emotionally and understand your options before you do anything.

You have three basic alternatives: You can accept the lump sum, leave the money with the insurance company, or arrange for the insurance company to pay you a regular income.

The lump-sum payout is the simplest concept. You'd get a check and can invest it any way you wish.

The second method is to set up a retained-asset account with the insurance company. You would earn a rate of return on the death benefit that is similar to that of a bank checking account and could access the funds by writing a check.

But, if you are retired and are concerned about outliving your assets, you may want to look into one of the fixed-payment options.

- *Lifetime-only annuity:* Pays you a lifetime income.

- *Joint-and-survivor annuity:* Pays you and any other dependent a lifetime income.

- *Period-certain annuity:* Pays you an income for a specified period. If you die during that time, the payments will continue to your beneficiary for the remainder of the term.

- *Life with period-certain annuity:* Pays you a lifetime income and guarantees the payments for a minimum term. If you die during that term, your beneficiary will receive payments for the balance of the term.

The size of payments will depend on the amount of the death benefit, your age and that of any joint-income beneficiary, and the payment term.

For more information, call Curt Whipple at (734) 844-3400.

Brian Mell, Financial Consultant
DFCU Financial
Canton Branch, through
CUSO Financial Services, L.P.

Financially SPEAKING

Q - When should I start planning for financial independence?

A - It's never too early to start saving and investing for retirement. The sooner you start, the more money you may have when you retire. On the other hand, if you wait too long, you may have to postpone retirement until enough money has been saved. Take this example* of a 25-year-old and a 40-year-old who both begin contributing the maximum amount to an IRA and earn the same rate of return with the goal of retiring at 65. With an additional 15 years of investing, the 25-year-old would have accumulated \$1,218,709 and the 40-year-old only \$334,913. This just illustrates that the early bird may retire fatter. All DFCU Financial Partners Financial Consultants through our broker-dealer CUSO Financial Services, L.P. (CFS) are Chartered Retirement Planning Counselors through the College of Financial Planning. They're located at each DFCU Financial branch and have the experience and all the necessary credentials to help you. For a complimentary consultation stop by or call us at 313.336.2700 or toll free at 888.336.2700 outside the local area. Or visit www.dfcufinancial.com.



BRING US YOUR LIFE.

*Example assumes the individuals contribute \$4,000 to an IRA each year and earn an average of 8% on their investments over the life of the IRA. Figures quoted are for illustrative purposes and are not indicative of past or future results for any specific investment.

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Paying Your Mortgage Off Early



Nelson Wilson
AVP-Senior Loan Officer
The West Team/Chase Home Finance

You've decided to pay your mortgage off early. What is the best way to accomplish this? Conventional wisdom would have you pay it off by making an additional principal payment each month along with the regular house payment or by paying half the regular mortgage payment every two weeks. By pursuing either of these strategies the scheduled amortization of the mortgage is accelerated and paid off early.

I would offer a slight variation on these strategies. You might consider making an additional principal payment but instead of making it to the lender, make those payments into a liquid investment account, like a mutual fund for example. You could continue to make payments into this investment account until the balance in it equals the balance of your mortgage. Then you pay off the mortgage completely.

By doing it this way you would have had liquid funds available if some need arose, i.e. an emergency or loss of employment. By having those extra payments in a liquid account you could access them readily. If those payments had gone into 'home equity' they would have been illiquid and not readily available, what is called frozen, non-working capital. Also if you were earning the historical average return on investment you could probably pay the mortgage off even more quickly.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with paying off your mortgage early. Just make sure that your interests are served first.

For questions or additional information on mortgage management call Nelson Wilson at 734-576-1828.

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Pathway to freedom

Community featured several stops on historic Underground Railroad

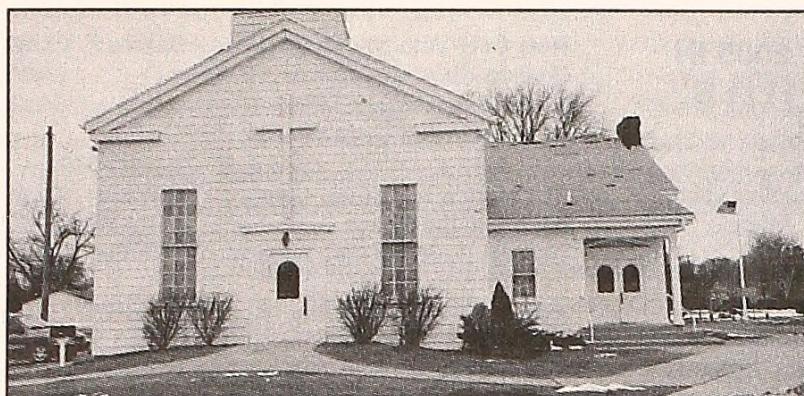
Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

Each year, school children learn about some of the major names in the national abolition movement—people like Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, and Frederick Douglass—as part of their studies.

They might not realize, though, that the path to freedom used by so many people to escape slavery was not found only in far-away places or within the pages of a history book—it could be found in their own backyard.

Carol Clements, a naturalist with the Wayne County Parks System, said that she found 14 locations along the Rouge River between Northville and Nankin Mill that were fairly well established through family letters and other primary sources, but additional sites may well have been active but undocumented.

In Romulus, two buildings are strongly suspected of involvement in the Underground Railroad. According Pearl Varner, museum director of the Romulus Historic Park and Museum, one is the Wesleyan Methodist Church, originally built about 1855 in the Five Points area. One hundred years later, when the church was moved back on the same site to allow for expansion, she said that workers



The Wesleyan Methodist Church, originally built about 1855 in the Five Points area was part of the Underground Railroad in this area.

received a shock when two trap doors—one near the entrance and another near the pulpit—were found, leading into tunnels carved out beneath the church. Scraps of pottery and wood carvings were recovered from the tunnels before the expansion continued.

The Samuel Kingsley House—now part of the Romulus Historic Park—was built adjacent to the church by a member of its congregation in 1855. It hides secrets of its own. The home features a double stairway, and beneath where the two staircases meet, there is a fairly large space with a disguised door.

"That was not too unusual, but there was also a trapdoor that led directly into the basement," Varner said. "From the basement, you couldn't tell where the door

was." Further scrutiny turned up additional hidden trapdoors in the living room and in one of the bedrooms.

Carol Mull, a member of the Michigan Freedom Trail Commission and an Underground Railroad researcher, said that sites are often found in communities served by certain churches.

"You can pretty much expect that anywhere there was a Wesleyan Methodist Church, there were abolitionists," she said. Some of the founding tenets of the church involved doing whatever possible to bring slavery to an end. Certain Quaker sects and Wesleyan Methodists are among the most commonly known anti-slavery sympathizers, but people of all different backgrounds played a role, too.

"It just depended on the minister and the group who organized the congregation," Mull said.

The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 made helping fugitive slaves a criminal offense, and unsympathetic neighbors could damage the property of or hurt those they thought were involved. The original Nankin Mill—in what is now Westland—burned to the ground, and according to Clements, it has long been believed the fire was a result of arson driven by anti-abolitionist sentiments.

"Wayne and Westland were both extremely heavy in the Underground Railroad," said Jim Franklin, president of the Friends of the Museum in Westland. He added that because of the number of abolitionists in the area and the ease of transportation near the river, Nankin Mills was one of the hubs in the area.

The river may have played a role in the process, because reported sites dot the map near the Rouge River waterway and its tributaries from Northville to Wayne on a display of suspected local stations created by Clements for display at Nankin Mill.

To the north, visitors could have stopped at the farm of "King" Starkweather, which was located near the current intersection of Seven Mile Road and Beck Road or at Mead's Mill—located

near Hines Drive between Five and Six Mile Roads. Northville Historical Society documents suggest that William and Ursula Ambler, owners of the Ambler House Hotel in Northville, were also actively involved in the railroad.

Further south, St. John's Seminary at Five Mile and Sheldon is believed to be a station, as is the Pattison farm in what is now the southwest corner of the Ford and Newburg Road intersection in Westland. General Schwartz, who lived just east of Wayne Road on Ann Arbor Trail, lent his name to an area on the Plymouth to Detroit route. In Wayne, the northeast corner of Venoy Road and Michigan Avenue—now home to a drug store—used to be the site of the Chubb home.

"The story is that there was an entrance from the riverbank into the house," said Virginia Presson, manager of the Wayne Historical Museum.

For now, however, these and many other stops on the Underground Railroad live on primarily in memories. Since helping former slaves escape was unpopular and even illegal, few practitioners left written proof of their involvement. Instead, they left behind stories passed from one generation to the next.

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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD JANUARY 24, 2005 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ROMULUS CITY HALL, 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Randolph Gear.
Present: LeRoy Burcroff, William Crova, Randolph Gear, Charles Miller, Michael
 Prybyla, Debbie Romak, William Wadsworth

Administrative Officials in Attendance:

Alan Lambert, Mayor
 Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
 Pamela Morrison/Kersey, CMFA, Treasurer

1. Motion by Romak, supported by Crova to approve the agenda as presented.
 Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak
 Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-021

2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to approve the minutes of the regular
 meeting of the Romulus City Council held January 10, 2005 as corrected.

Roll Call Vote Showing Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak,
 Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-022

4A. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Prybyla to concur with the recommendation of
 Attorney Steve Schwartz and authorize him to proceed as directed in the negotiation
 of the POAM Contract.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak,
 Wadsworth
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-023

4B. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Wadsworth to concur with the recommendation
 of Attorney Raymond Guzall and ratify the Teamsters Local 214 Union Contract to
 become effective January 31, 2005. Said Contract is for two years, July 1, 2004 to
 June 30, 2006.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak,
 Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-024

4C. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Wadsworth to concur with the recommendations
 of Attorney James E. Tamm and authorize him to proceed as regarding Orco
 Investments vs Romulus.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Wadsworth
 Nays - Miller, Romak.
 Motion Carried.

4. Motion by Romak, supported by Crova to accept the Chairman's Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak,
 Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Unanimously.

05-025

5A. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff to adopt a resolution, assuming jurisdiction
 over and acceptance of responsibility of the Storm Water Management System
 for the new Senior Center at 36525 Bibbins, pursuant to Wayne County Ordinance
 and further to designate the Mayor as the city official to sign permits.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak,
 Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-026

5B. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crova to introduce an amendment to the
 Romulus Code of Ordinances, amending Chapter 5, Article XI, Residential and
 Commercial Blight Ordinance of the City of Romulus Code of Ordinances.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak,
 Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-027

5C. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to concur with Personnel Director,
 Sandra Rivers and re-number Policy 29 entitled Information Technology Usage -
 from policy 29 to Policy 27 for the proper sequencing of the Employee Policy and
 Procedure Manual.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak,
 Wadsworth
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-028

5D. Motion by Crova, supported by Miller to concur with Safety Director Charles
 Kirby and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into the Motorola Radio Service

Agreement for 2005 in the amount of \$17,377.92.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak,
 Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-029

SE. Motion by Miller, supported by Wadsworth to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to
 enter into the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project Rouge River
 General Projects Grant Agreement with the County of Wayne.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak,
 Wadsworth
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-030

5F. Motion by Romak, supported by Crova to introduce Budget Amendment
 04/05-10:

| FUND/DEPT | ACCOUNT NO. | ACCOUNT NAME | CURRENT BUDGET | AMENDMENT | AMENDED BUDGET |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| | 101-5110-751.74-61 | Senior Alliance | 1,900 | 1,776 | 3,676 |
| | | | | | |
| FUND BALANCE | | AVAILABLE | | APPROPRIATE | REMAINING BALANCE |
| | | General Fund | 3,271,313 | 1,776 | 3,269,537 |

To appropriate additional funds for Romulus, portion of the Wayne County Debt
 owed by the Senior Alliance as presented to City Cot on December 6, 2005.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak,
 Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

5G. No Action Taken.

05-031

6A1. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to concur with City Planner
 Cyndi Lyon and approve the request from Mr. Marius Iacoban to vacate South Park
 Place in the Junction Subdivision, Block 24, between Grover and Wahrman abutting
 Lots 1 through 9 inclusive.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak,
 Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

6A2. Item Deleted*.

05-032

6A3. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Romak to schedule a Study Session for the
 Goddard Road Repairs to be held February 8, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the condition
 of Goddard Road, ongoing repairs and the status of the legal action against Lanzo
 Construction.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak,
 Wadsworth.
 Nays - Burcroff.
 Motion Carried.

05-033

6A4. Motion by Romak, supported by Crova to schedule a Study Session for Monday,
 February 7, at 6:00 p.m., in the Romulus City Council Chambers located at 11111
 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174, for the purpose of discussing the Audit for
 fiscal year ending June 30, 2004.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak,
 Wadsworth
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-034

11. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff to authorize Treasurer of the City of
 Romulus to disburse funds as listed in Warrant 05-02 in the grand total amount of
 Seven Hundred Forty Three Thousand, Nine Hundred Sixty Five Dollars and Seventy
 Three Cents (\$743,965.73).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Abstain- Crova.
 Motion Carried.

12. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to adjourn the regular meeting of the
 Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak,
 Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,
 Linda R. Choate, CMC,
 City Clerk

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the
 foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City
 Council held January 24, 2005.

Publish: February 17, 2005

OBITUARIES

FARMER, Ronald E.

Ronald E. Farmer, 56, a lifelong resident of the Belleville and Romulus area, died Jan. 29.

Among his survivors are his wife of more than 30 years, Diane Kay (Knight) Farmer; his father, Donald Farmer of Ohio, and aunts and uncles, Edmund and Hazel Machcinski, Junior and Luella Machcinski Marian Bloomfield and Bill and Carol Gibbons, all of Michigan.

A funeral mass was celebrated at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Belleville by Father Thomas H. Cusick.

Interment was at Our Lady of Hope Cemetery in Brownstown Township.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

STORY, Alice

Alice M. Story, 86, of Livonia, died Jan. 26.

Among her survivors are her stepson Virgil (Barbara) Story of Ypsilanti; four step-grandchildren, and seven step-great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Story was an avid bell collector and had more than 100 bells in her collection.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

COLE, Arville Sr.

Arville T Cole, Sr., 61, of Romulus, died Jan. 27.

Among his survivors are his son, Arville T Cole, Jr. of Romulus; daughter, Margaret E. (Jose) Lopez of Romulus, Jennifer (Tony) Foust of Carleton, Catherine (Harry) Cilley of Belleville and Valda L. Cole, also of Belleville; a brother, William M. Cole of Crossville, TN; sisters, Margaret (John) Jerrell of Rose Hill, VA and Billie Sue Gogates of Ypsilanti; stepchildren,

Richard L. West and Debbie West, both of Romulus; 28 grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

Funeral services were at St. Stephen Catholic Church with Father Alexander Wytrwal officiating.

Interment was at Knollwood Memorial Park in Canton Township.

BYARD, Robert G.

Robert G. Byard, 54, of Romulus, died Jan. 28.

Among his survivors are his wife, Betty J. (Simmons) Byard; daughters, Rachel (Michael) King and Renee L. Byard, both of Romulus; his mother, Jean Bunting; brothers, Richard (Victoria) Byard of Romulus, Raymond (Carolyn) Byard of Trenton and Randy (Connie) Byard of Lincoln Park; a sister, Jeanette Lee of Romulus and grandsons, Robert and Troy King.

Mr. Byard retired from General Motors in 2002 after 34 years of employment.

Funeral services were at the Crane Funeral Home with the Rev. Robert Roscoe of the First Freewill Baptist Church in Toledo officiating.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock.

COURTER, Robert

Robert Allen Courter, 67, a 60-year resident of Van Buren Township, died Jan. 30.

Among his survivors are his wife of more than 43 years, Sharon C. (Baker) Courter; children, Roxane "Lynn" Mercurio and Robert Glenn (Theresa) Courter, all of Belleville; a sister, Judith (Thomas) Price of Belleville; brothers, Richard (Alma) Courter of Simpsonville, S.C. and James (Sandy) Courter of Auzier, KY; several nieces and nephews, and his grandchildren, James Mercurio, Jamie Mercurio, Savannah Courter and Caden Courter.

Mr. Courter was a 1955 graduate of Belleville High School and served in the United States National Guard. He retired from AT&T in 1986 and from EDS in 1996 to start his own business, ComTell Communications in Belleville.

He was a former president of CWA Communication Workers of America Local 4017 and a past president of the Belleville High School Booster Club. Mr. Courter was a member of the Barton Eagles, September Days Senior Citizens and a former member of the Belleville Moose Lodge 934.

A funeral mass was celebrated by Father Thomas H. Cusick at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Belleville where Mr. Courter was a member.

Interment was at Hillside Cemetery in Belleville.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

RISI, Dorothy Jean

Dorothy Jean Risi, 72, of Belleville, died Feb. 5.

Among her survivors are her husband of more than 54 years, Francis Frank Risi; children, Scott (Sharol) Risi of Belleville, Patricia (James) Copley of Duckriver, TN, Fran Risi of Coldwater, Marian (Al Rogers) and Kenneth Risi, all of Belleville and John (Sandra) Risi of Romulus; 14 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Risi worked as a lunch lady at Lincoln Elementary School.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with Dr. John N. Grenfell III officiating.

WARTELLA, Paul

Paul David Lynn Wartella, 31, of Belleville, died Feb. 8.

Among his survivors are his daughter, Madilyn Grace Buletza-Wartella of

Ludington; his parents, Paul Jay Wartella of Jackson and Joan Marie Gutierrez of Belleville; two half-sisters, and his companion, Sherrie Roach of Westland.

Mr. Wartella was employed at the Oakdale Recovery Center as a patient care advocate.

Father Jack Baker celebrated a funeral mass for Mr. Wartella at St. Mary Catholic Church in Wayne.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

OCHALEK, Casimer

Casimer "Cass Lefty" Ochalek, 84, of Detroit, formerly of Grayling and Belleville, died Feb. 9.

Among his survivors are his sons, Chester (Phyllis) Ochalek of Kentucky, Harold (Jackleen) Ochalek of Belleville, Terry (Helen) Ochalek of Wayne, Dan Ochalek of Colorado, John (Lisa) Ochalek of Belleville, Ricky Pianga of Massachusetts, Marty Pianga of Kansas, and Randy (Shirley) Pianga of Kansas; daughters, Janet (Walter) Montgomery of Canton Township, Sylvia Frazier of Tennessee, Julia (Larry) Petrimoulx of Dearborn Heights, Carol (Roy) Britton and Marsha Pianga, both of Michigan and Trease Ratliff of Belleville; 40 grandchildren, and 35 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Ochalek was a former member of the Van Buren Eagles Aerie 3996 and the Pueblo, CO. Eagles.

Father Thomas H. Cusick celebrated a funeral mass for Mr. Ochalek at St. Anthony Catholic Church.

Interment was at Union-Udell Cemetery.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

CITY OF ROMULUS Downtown Development Authority Request for Qualifications

The city of Romulus is proud to announce a Request for Qualifications ("RFQ") to select a developer for a 1.47-acre property. The City-owned development site ("the site") is one parcel located on Goddard Road directly adjoining the intersection of two railroad lines near Downtown Romulus. The city views this site as an opportunity to implement the vision established in the City's recently adopted Master Plan and seeks to initiate this exciting project. The site is an ideal setting for quality development as it is located along a major roadway with easy and convenient access to regional highways and is a prime location to create a dramatic entry point into Downtown Romulus.

This RFQ specifically addresses redevelopment of the site as a high-density residential project to supply needed residents within walking distance to the downtown to help provide the needed synergy to create a successful downtown. The site is a Brownfield and will require some level of remediation. The City is committed to the successful redevelopment of this site and will assist in the necessary steps to secure clean up and financing for the project.

The Preferred Developer will have impressive experience in downtown redevelopment, mixed-use development, and Brownfield redevelopment. The city also seeks a developer that will assist in developing innovative solutions for this site. Preliminary concepts considered by the City involve a mixture of uses including first floor office or retail with upper story residential; live/work units; or strictly high-density residential homes.

The Preferred Developer will incorporate good planning principles including pedestrian orientation, high-quality and traditional design, will embrace the history and heritage of the City of Romulus, and contain components to create a memorable gateway into Downtown Romulus.

This opportunity is part of the City's effort to revitalize Downtown Romulus and create a focal point for the community. As the City continues to make progress on revitalizing its Downtown, this site will be a benchmark for that success.

Interested development teams should provide an RFQ Submission that documents the team's interest in the project. Submission details may be attained from the Planning and Economic Development Department of the City of Romulus, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174, through Friday, February 25, 2005.

If you have any questions, please call Maria Lambert, DDA Director, at (734) 955-4533.

Publish: February 17, 2005

CITY OF ROMULUS NOTICE 2005 BOARD OF REVIEW

To the taxpayers of the City of Romulus: The Board of Review will meet in the Romulus City Hall, (Lower Level) Community Room, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174 on the following dates and times by APPOINTMENT ONLY for the purpose of reviewing the assessment roll.

Meeting dates are as follows:

| Residential |
|--|
| March 14, 2005: 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. |
| March 15, 2005: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. |

| Commercial/Industrial |
|--|
| March 16, 2005: 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. |

Tentative ratios and estimated multipliers are as follows:

| Classification | Ratio | Multiplier |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Commercial | 50% | 1.0000 |
| Industrial | 50% | 1.0000 |
| Residential | 50% | 1.0000 |
| Developmental | 50% | 1.0000 |
| Personal | 50% | 1.0000 |

Review is by appointment only

Residents and Non-Residents alike may appeal by (1) making an appointment to appear before the Board OR (2) in writing (personal appearance is not required). The Board of Review MUST receive all written appeals no later than March 16, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.

Property owners may appoint and authorize a representative to appear on their behalf. All Representatives or Agents MUST submit (current) proof of authorization to act on behalf of the property owner as a prerequisite to appeal to the Board of Review.

To schedule an appointment, please call the City of Romulus, Department of Assessment at (734) 942-7520 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Publish: February 17, 2005

SPORTS

Triple threat

Brothers make their mark on, off court

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

For the three Goree brothers – Pierre, Antwain and Anre – sharing space and belongings with each other is natural, because that's what brothers do.

However, the interesting thing about the three-Gs (that's what they call themselves) is that they all share the same basketball, court and playing time on the Inkster varsity basketball team.

It's a rarity for three brothers to play on the same high school team – let alone start at the varsity level, said Inkster Coach Gerald Paschal. But he admits they have a certain style.

"You can tell that they have played a lot of ball together," he said. "They have really good chemistry together – and it shows."

As unique as it is for them to play one sport together, their brotherly aspect has transcended basketball to include other sports, too. The brothers all played on the varsity football team and Pierre and Antwain played baseball, as well.

Anre said he might join his brothers on the baseball field this spring, making them

a triple threat in three different sports.

"We love playing together," the Gorees said, in unison.

That's the neat thing about them: they talk alike, they look alike and they play alike – everything is done together.

So who's the best basketball player?

"I am," they all respond, pointing to themselves.

Who's the best athlete?

"Me," they said, again in unison.

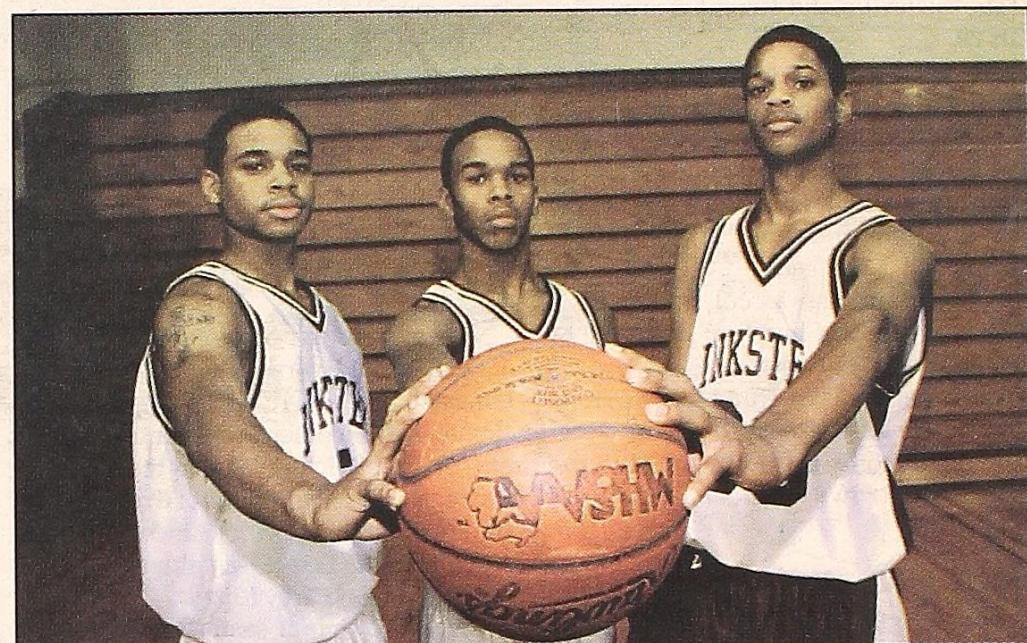
You'd almost think they were triplets but they're about a year apart from one another. Pierre, the oldest of the group, is a senior. Antwain is a junior and Anre is a sophomore.

The brothers actually started playing on the same team as far back as Inkster Raiders little league football, according to their mother, Brenda Dillard.

"I think it's great that they play together," she said. "They really like each other a lot; they're more like best friends."

She admits she has her hands full raising the three boys and her daughter, Bria, virtually single-handedly.

"They're a good bunch of boys," she added. "I'm so proud of them for sticking



The three Goree brothers—Pierre, Anre and Antwain—are a triple threat on the basketball court as well as the football field and they plan to hit the baseball field together in the spring.

together for as long as they have. Usually brothers go their own way after a while, but they really stuck together."

She said the three had typical brotherly skirmishes when they were little but now they are a team of their own.

But how does the sibling rivalry translate to the court? With out a hitch.

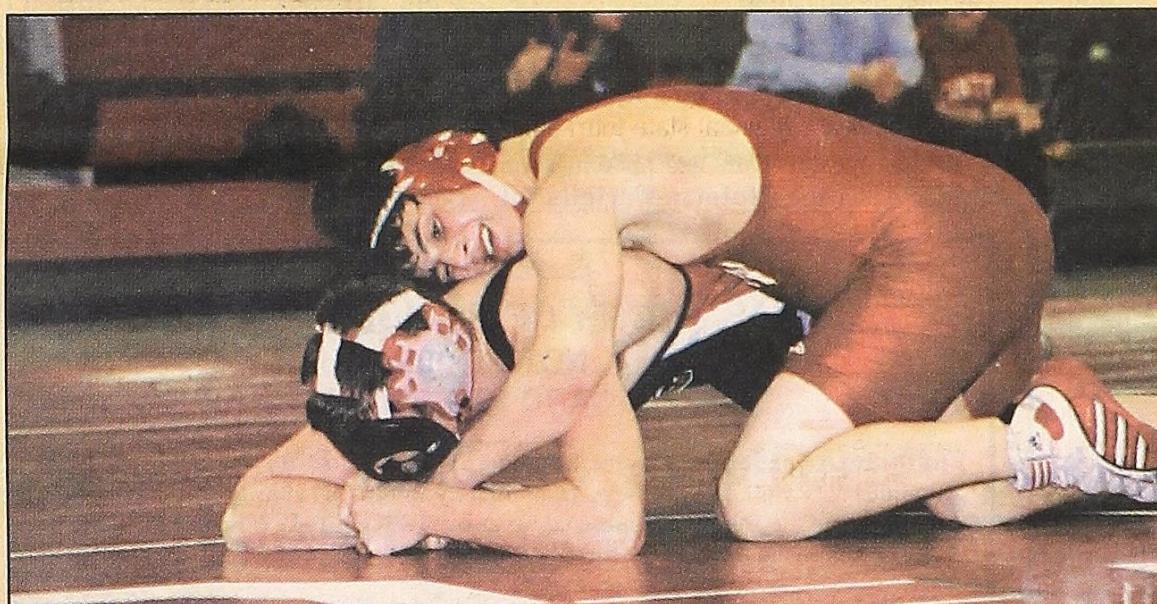
"I've never witnessed them getting mad at each other on the court," Paschal said.

At times all three are on the court at the

same time and imagine this: they seem to play together like they have been all their lives.

Although they could possibly be the three nicest brothers in high school sports, Antwain, Anre and Pierre said they would rather be known as the terrible trio rather than the terrific trio, due to their tenacious defensive game.

See Brothers, page 12



Canton's Alex Amberg takes on John Glenn's Jon McCahill when the two teams met last Wednesday. McCahill won the 160-pound match, 6-4, but Canton won the dual meet, 38-18.

Canton graples to 3rd in conference meet

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Canton Chiefs rolled to a third-place finish at the Western Lakes Conference meet hosted at Plymouth on Saturday.

They placed in the top six in 12 of the 14 weight classes, according to Canton Coach Casey Randolph.

Ryan Webb continued to dominate the 135-pound weight class when he won his match, 5-0, against Walled Lake Western's Mike Morfit to win first place in the tournament.

"It was a solid win for him," Randolph said. "He controlled the match from the start."

Konrad Konsitzke was the story of the tournament, though. The 140-pounder won his first-ever high school tournament when he defeated Franklin's Dave Watkins 11-1.

"It was good to see him win," Randolph said. "He's made it to at least a half dozen finals but has never won one. It was nice he finally got the monkey off his back."

Donnie Laramie, Ryan Schnettler and Corey Phillips all wrapped up third place in the heavyweight, 103 and 130-weight classes respectively.

Phillips lost in what Randolph said was a controversial match to Churchill's Justin Smith. The referee failed to call the match properly, he said.

Alex Amberg – at 160 pounds – and 119-pounder Jay Fleischmann both placed fourth, while Pat McWhirter landed in fifth in the 171-pound division.

Canton had four wrestlers place sixth in the tournament. Nick Poole (112), Alex Freitag (145) and Tom Bonnell all made the cut.

P.J. Caram, a 189-pounder suffered, the biggest loss when he suffered an injury after he was thrown into the bleachers by his opponent. He was forced to forfeit the rest of the matches, Randolph said.

"He could have easily placed second or third if he's able to continue," he said. "If he does that than we could have placed second."

Franklin won the tournament; Churchill followed in second and Salem came in fourth. Plymouth High School finished 12th out of the 12 teams.

The Chiefs had a strong dual meet earlier in the week, too.

Canton wrestled to a 38-18 victory against John Glenn last Wednesday night in Canton. The win brought their record to 21-9 and 5-1 in the league.

See Wrestle, page 11

Chiefs win 5 straight

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

In high school basketball it always helps to peak at the right time.

The Canton Chiefs hope the right time is now.

They just extended their win streak to five in a row with victories against Stevenson and Salem. They now stand at 11-6 overall and 7-4 in league play and are gearing up for this week's Western Lakes conference tournament.

Defense has been the key in their last two victories; they limited their opponents to a combined 64 points.

Against Salem on Friday, the Chiefs held the Rocks to 27 points.

"We're only giving up an average of 43 points a game and our offense is starting to come around," said Canton Coach Charlie Paye. "Against Salem, it was probably our best four quarters of defense. We didn't allow them too many good shots."

They not only held the Rocks to just eight points in the first quarter. They also had a huge first quarter offensively with 17 points.

Over the next two periods of play, Canton racked up another 24 points and only allowed 12 to Salem. After three quarters, the Chiefs led, 41-20. Both teams scored seven in the fourth, giving Canton a 48-27 win.

Senior guard David Callile led Canton with 12 points, while senior guard Andy Cortellini added 11 at the point. Cortellini also recorded seven steals. Junior forward Bridges had a solid showing with 10 points and five rebounds. Senior center Kevin

Thornton led the rebounding effort with 11. He added nine points to the mix, too.

The team recorded only nine turnovers in the outing, which is a vast improvement from earlier in the season, when they averaged nearly 20 per game. They were also 8 of 12 from the line.

Stevenson attempted to slow Canton down on Tuesday but without much success. Canton won 52-37.

It worked at first – they outplayed the Chiefs 10-6 in the first – but Canton pounced back with a 11-6 second quarter to take a one-point lead at the half, 17-16.

Canton's offense stepped up in the third for 19 points. Stevenson managed 12. And in the final session, the Chiefs outscored the Spartans, 16-9, for the win.

"They slowed us down some in the beginning," Paye said. "They were making us work for it. We played pretty good defense and we got the offense going in the second quarter."

Cortellini and Calille each scored 13 for Canton. Cortellini was a perfect 6-for-6 from the line. Bridges had a strong game with nine points.

"(Bridges) is playing really well right now," Paye said. "He's had a good second half of the season for us."

Canton hopes to continue their win streak when they take part in the Western Lakes conference tournament this week. They played Walled Lake Western on the road on Tuesday but the results were unavailable at press time. They will face either Wayne or Northville in the second round on Friday. The championship game is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 23 at Walled Lake Central.



The Plymouth Saberettes Varsity Pom Squad after they were awarded Class A Division 1 classification at the regional competition hosted at Livonia Churchill High School on Saturday, Feb. 5.

Saberettes compete in first state competition

It wasn't what they hoped or worked so hard for, but the Plymouth Varsity Saberettes Pom Squad finished in 11th place in Class A Division 1 - the hardest division in the state - last weekend at the state competition at Eastern Michigan University. It was, however, their first state competition as a varsity team. The Saberettes earned the high classification with an outstanding performance at the regional competition hosted at Churchill the prior weekend.

"Getting this far was an accomplishment for them," said Judy Bono, a proud parent. "These girls are really an outstanding and strong group of girls even though they think they should have done better, but there's always next year."

On the brighter side, the junior varsity team won the state title in their division. It was their first time competing at the regional and state level as well.

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Wrestle

FROM PAGE 10

The meet started out shaky for the Chiefs when they lost their first two matches. At the 152-pound weight class, Glenn's Dave Wood defeated Marwan Faraj in a 4-3 decision and Jon McCahill overcame Amberg, 6-4, for a win in the 160-pound division.

McWhirter (171) set things in motion for Canton when he defeated Andy Hein 16-1. His win led to four others. Sophomore 189-pounder Keil Price defeated Ozell Hamon 22-7; Caram (215) won his match, 17-2, against Shamir Garcia; Laramie (heavyweight) pinned Kevin Hanka in 3:52; and Schnettler (103) won a close one against Brandon Nikual, 7-3.

Glenn's Jeremiah Austin (112)

defeated Santilli, 9-4, but Fleischmann (119) defeated Logan Shepard 17-2 in the following match. Then, John Glenn's Rowdy Glasgow (125) overcame Pete Bonneau, 6-4. Canton pulled off consecutive wins when Philips (130) outlasted Jim Wood to a 9-4 finish and then Webb (135) pinned Orlando Carswell in 2:31.

Glenn won the last two matches in close fashion. Reece Cox,

ranked No. 1 in the state and 30th in the nation at the 140-pound weight class, won a 4-1 decision against Konsitzke. Saif Naber (145) held on for a 4-2 victory against Freitag.

Canton's next endeavor is the individual district tournament at 9 a.m. on Saturday at Salem High School. The tournament will help decide who will move on to the regional state tournament at the end of the month.

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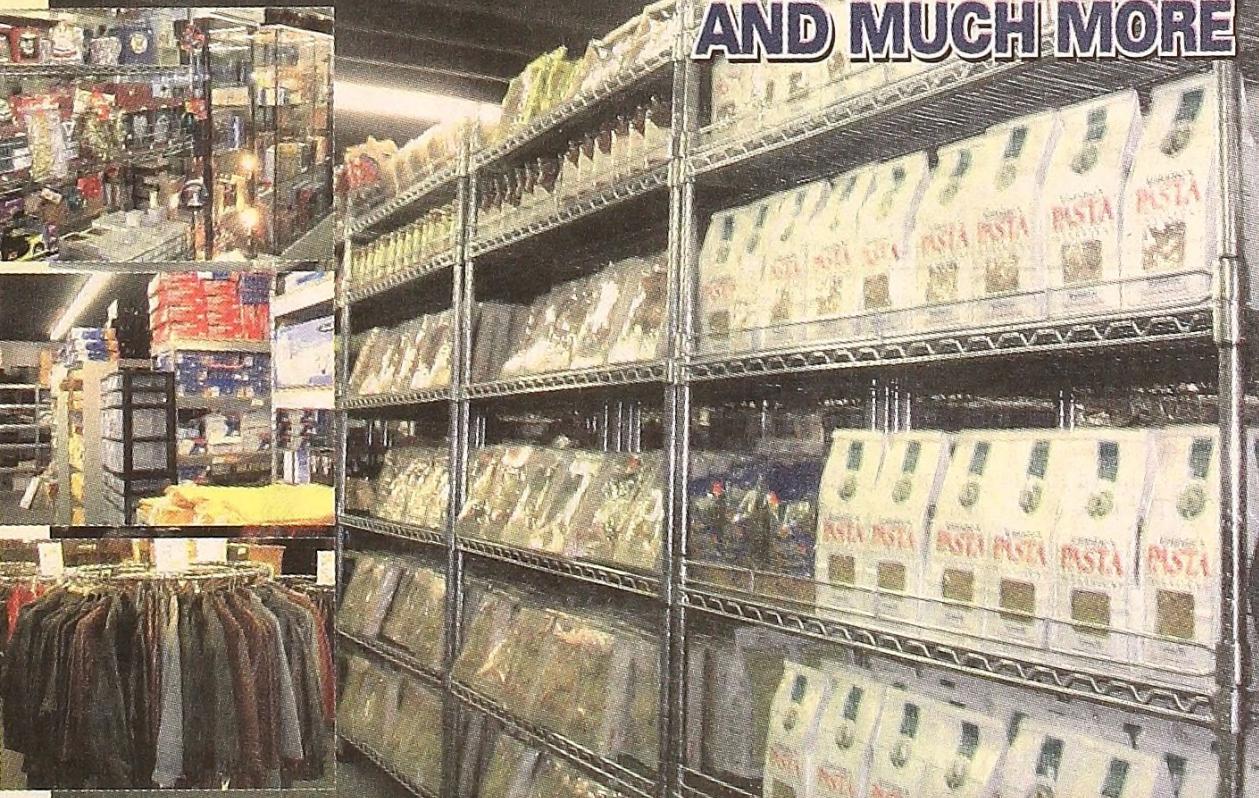
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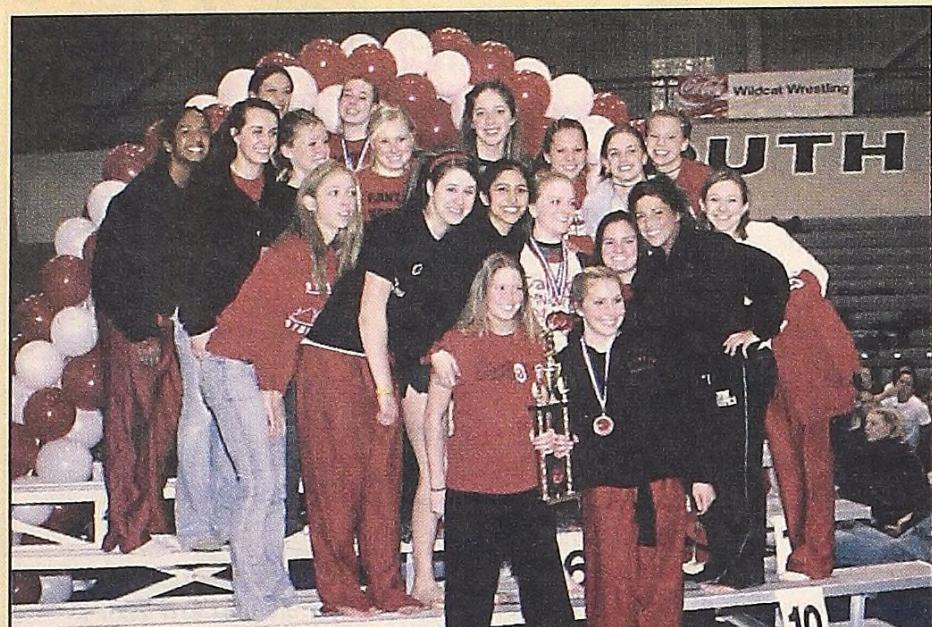


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The Canton gymnastics team show off their third-place trophy after the Canton Invite on Saturday, Feb. 5. They went on and defeated Walled Lake Unified last Wednesday at home.

Canton vaults past Walled Lake

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Without two of their top gymnasts, Walled Lake Unified was no match for the Canton Chiefs last Wednesday.

Canton vaulted to a 144.20-126.20 victory – the team's second highest team score.

Canton's Alyssa Kelley led the way in the all-around and was honored as top gymnast with a score of 36.10. She outscored everyone on vault with a 9.35 and finished first on floor with a 9.45. She also placed fourth on bars (8.85) and fifth on the beam (8.45).

Kate Staley finished second in the all-around with a 35.60. She scored a personal

best, 9.0, on the bars for second place and another personal best, 9.0, on the beam, which tied her for third place with Walled Lake's Kelly McKay. She also tied for second (8.8) with teammate Kaitlyn Burns on the vault and placed fifth on floor with an 8.80.

Hillary Bracht, on Canton's B team, finished third all-around with a 34.70. She did that with solid scores on beam (9.10, a personal best), floor (8.8), bars (8.5) and vault (8.30).

Other winners included Megan Chappo who's slowly returning to full duty after being plagued with injuries. She won two events, including a personal best 9.35 on the

beam, and a 9.15 on bars.

Mina Pirzadeh also hit a personal best when she scored a 9.25 on the beam – good for second place in the event. She also landed in sixth place on the bars with an 8.40.

Kara Ahern took second place on the floor with a routine worthy of a 9.20, while Jessie Murray was close behind with a 9.05 for third. Ahern was also third on bars (8.95) and fifth on vault (8.40). Murray also placed fifth on bars (8.55). Heather Wagner finished fourth place on vaults with an 8.60.

Canton travels to Traverse City Central High School for their next dual meet on Saturday.

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Bothers

FROM PAGE 10

"Because once you get the three of us on the court at the same time..." Antwain started, "It's not good for the other team," they all said together.

Between the three of them they average about four steals and about eight rebounds per game. Their offense isn't too shabby either. Together they average almost 15 points a game.

Anre leads the group in scoring. He averages more than seven points a game along with three assists and two steals. Pierre averages five points, three rebounds one steal and one assist per game while Antwain – the tallest of the group at 6-foot-4 – leads the threesome in rebounds. He nabs about five boards a game with three points, one steal and one assist, according to Paschal.

And when the team wins or loses, it's three times the jubilation or three times the melancholy at the household, according to Dillard.

"They all come home mad when they lose and they come home happy when they win," she said.

Through the years the Gorees have had plenty of inspiration from their mother, but they said they look up to "Coach P" and his assistant, William Springer, as father figures.

"He's the best coach that I know," Pierre said of Paschal. "What he says is that he doesn't care about basketball, he cares

about making us men in life. That's what he believes."

"He's real hard on us, but for good causes," he added. "He's real hard on us. We work hard and it pays off—he makes us work hard but he knows it's going to be hard in life."

"I'm almost speechless that they feel that way about me," Paschal said.

Paschal is hard on them, especially when it comes to grades. Antwain was ineligible for first half of the season because of grades.

"I respect him for doing that," he said. "He's looking out for us."

The 'tough love' worked and Antwain's grades are back up – and he's been back on the court, helping the team. He said it's exactly where he wants to be.

The trio will be reduced to the dynamic duo after Pierre graduates this year.

"We're going to miss him a lot," Anre and Antwain said.

"It's going to be tough," Pierre said. "I think about it everyday, I'm going to miss it."

"I'm going to miss the day when Pierre leaves," Paschal said. "He's so important to the team. He's not only the leader of the brothers but he's a leader of the team, too."

But for now, the triple threat remains intact and promise to make their mark in the state play-offs and hope for a championship.

With that in mind, the Gorees only had one thing left to say aimed at upcoming opponents: "Watch out for the three-Gs."

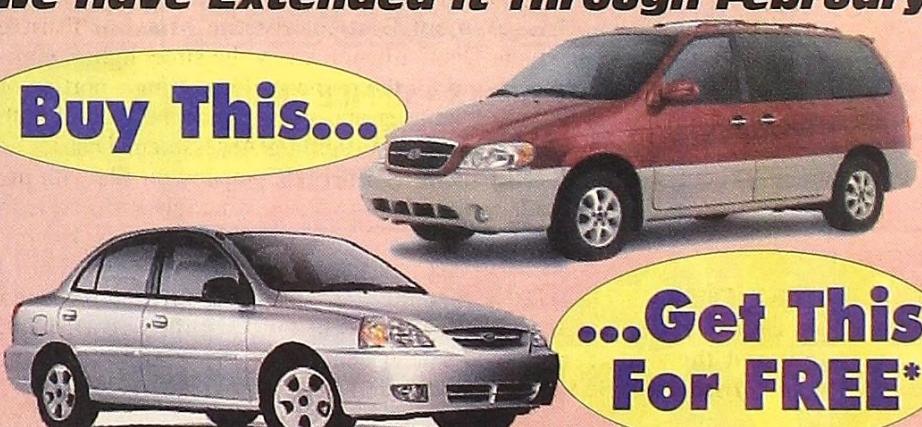
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Belleville hoopsters 'brave' past Ypsilanti for second time

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

It took three quarters for the Belleville Tigers to pull away from the Ypsilanti Braves Friday night, but they dug in their claws in and jumped to a 64-51 victory in Ypsilanti.

It was close most of the way – like their first meeting back in January – but a 12-0 fourth-quarter run set Belleville up for their second win against the Braves this season.

"Both games were very similar; both were close games but the run came a little later this time," said Belleville Coach Mike Krogel. "Ypsilanti went with a smaller line-up this time and we had to try and find a line-up that worked."

Ypsi used the smaller, faster lineup to their advantage in the first quarter and outscored the Tigers, 11-8. But Belleville found the right combination to counter Ypsilanti within the second period. They outscored the Braves, 16-12, for a one-point advantage, 24-23.

After the intermission Belleville kept Ypsi at bay with a 39-37 lead at the end of the third. Senior guard Isaac Kindell and junior forward Leon Freeman ignited the fourth-quarter run with a couple triples, Krogel said.

Free throws were the difference in the end. The Tigers knocked down 25 of 30 freebies, while Ypsi only hit 13-of 21. Belleville hit 15 of 20 in the final eight minutes – senior guard Josh Samarcia and junior forward Mike Donaldson each hit 4-for-4 from

the line and Freeman nailed 2 of 2.

Kindell was 75 percent (9 of 12) from the line on his way to a team-high 18 points. Samarcia hit for 15, including three triples. Freeman recorded a double-double with 10 points and a team-leading 25 rebounds. He also served up four assists and nabbed six steals.

Krogel said senior point guard Anre Partee had a solid game handling the ball, "penetrating, driving and dishing," for the team. He had four points and seven assists on the night.

"It was a good win for us," Krogel said. "We should have a chance to at least tie for the division championship."

In order to accomplish that, Belleville will have to defeat the Romulus Eagles – who sent them to their only loss this season – on Friday, Feb. 25.

But before they can concentrate on Romulus they will have to take on Willow Run tomorrow night at home and Detroit Northwestern next Tuesday.

Belleville 64, Monroe 56

The score made the Tigers' contest against the Trojans last Tuesday appear to be a lot closer than it really was.

Belleville was up by 20 early in the second quarter, so Krogel used bench players throughout the rest of the game. They maintained a 17-point game, 49-32, after three. Monroe came to life in the fourth and scored 24 but Belleville held on for the victory.

"A lot of kids got to play," Krogel said. "They scored 24 on us in the fourth but I would rather have all 14 kids get to play."

Samarco had another stellar day with 21 points, which included three-triples. He was also a perfect 6-for-6 from the line.

Junior forward Tommie Clark added 20 points, grabbed eight rebounds and four steals.

Around the court

Tuesday's results:

Romulus defeated Ypsilanti, 87-48. Sophomore center Devin Searcy led the Eagles with 21 points. Senior forward Avery Stephenson added 17.

Plymouth overcame rival Salem, 61-45. Plymouth's Brent Jones scored 15 and junior forward Jim Wilbur, 10. Billy Leddy scored 14 for Salem.

The Wayne Memorial Zebras controlled Churchill, 54-42. Senior guard Danny Walsh led all scorers with 18 and Gene Nix added 14 for the Zebras.

John Glenn kept their win streak alive when they defeated Franklin, 60-41. Senior center Barry Eberhardt scored 25 for the Rockets.

Friday's results:

Romulus manhandled River Rouge to a 79-64 victory. Stephenson led the team with 24 points; Jarret Smith produced 15.

Plymouth triumphed over Walled Lake Central, 48-47, in a nail-biter. Plymouth's junior guard D.J. Coleman scored 15 and junior forward Josh Le Duc added 13.

In the game of the week, Wayne Memorial defeated cross-town rivals John Glenn, 75-43, for the conference championship. Nix led Wayne with 16 and Walsh added 15 in the comeback victory. Eberhardt scored 19 for Glenn.

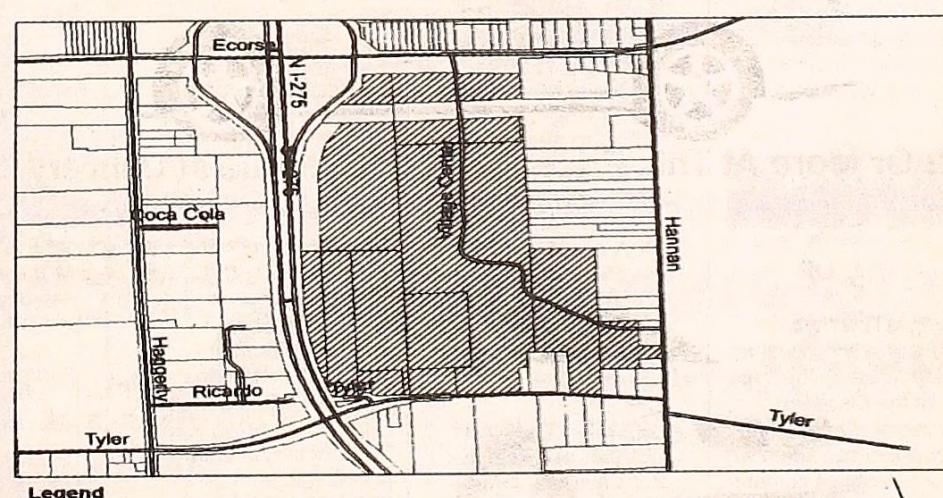
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 23, 2005 at 7:30 p.m., in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan

The Public Hearing relates to the following described property:

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This is a portion of parcel with the tax ID number V125-83-045-99-0020-703. This property is located on the south side of Ecorse Road, between I-275 and Hannan Road. A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below:



The applicant is requesting special use approval. A special use approval is required for the operation of a fitness center per Section 14.03 4(a) of the Zoning Ordinance. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m., February 23, 2005, the hearing date.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

The question is: Are you controlling others?

The man sat across from the doctor wondering about his exam. The conversation went something like this:

"Everything looks pretty good, Joe," the doc said. "How are the medications holding out?"

"I need a refill of that Efforrex," He told the doctor.

"You mean Effexor?"

"Yeah, Efforrex."

The doctor frowned, clearly irritated by the mispronunciation of the name of the medication.

"Effexor, Joe. Effexor."

Joe shrugged. "Oh well, as long as you know what it is. That's what's important."

A month later, Joe told the doctor he needed some more of that Flickasol for his back pain,

"Joe," the doctor said, getting angry, "It's Flexeril, not flickasol, or whatever you said. Why do you do that?"

"Do what?"

"Purposely mispronounce the names of medicines?"

"No reason," Joe answered. "I don't think it's a big deal."

The doctor shook his head. Let me pause here, and give you some his-

tory.

About a year before, the doctor had come to the realization he was addicted to painkillers, narcotics which he had prescribed for himself. After all, he's a doctor, who would know better?

Anyway, the doc ends up in treatment for drug addiction and started going to

support group meetings. He really enjoyed what he was learned at these meetings and his life improved.

Joe, on the other hand, had been in recovery for more than a dozen years, and did what he could to help the doc.

Knowing that if you tell someone to do something you generally get a negative response, Joe sometimes went about things in a different way.

One day, Joe asked the doc if he remembered getting so upset with the mispronounced drug names?"

"Yes," the doc said.

"Have you ever thought about why you got so upset?"

"No," the doc replied.

"Why don't you think about it?" Joe suggested and walked over to get coffee and sit down.

The doctor followed and asked Joe why

should he think about it?

"If it were me," Joe said. "I'd think about the cause of my anger. Is it because I am a doctor, I am perfect, or have to be perfect, and I expect others to be the same? Does that mean I have unreal expectations of others? What happens when I am arrogant enough to demand, or expect others to do what I want them to? Isn't that an expectation, which I've come to learn that nine out of 10 times leads to disappointment? Which, in turn, makes me angry and that anger slips into a resentment against that person for not pronouncing the names right?"

"Finally, the real important question: 'With all of my attempting to control others—am I happy?'"

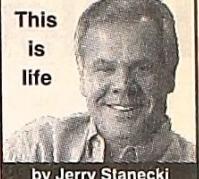
It's fascinating how we slip into old

ways that demand the unreal and cause so much grief for us.

What's more interesting is how they build so quickly into a mountain of unhappiness, until someone brings you a different way of looking at it? Now, the doc has a choice.

Me? I'd rather be happy than right. How about you?

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59. Auctions

AUTO AUCTION
J & M TOWING
8964 Inkster Rd.
Romulus, MI 48174
(734) 946-4101
THURSDAY,

February 24, 2005
@ 11:00am

1978 GMC GRAND SIERRA
TCL448F742418
PICKUP - 04-4141
1994 FORD
1FAPP36X0RK198618
4 DOOR - 04-13049
1996 PLYMOUTH BREEZE
1P3EJ46C9TN273229
4 DOOR - 04-13152
1990 FORD
1FACP42E7LF107806
2 DOOR - 04-13153
1986 TOYOTA
JT2ST64C1G7033283
2 DOOR - 04-13176
1994 PONTIAC
GRAND AM
1G2NE5535RC725472
4 DOOR - 05-110
1994 CHRYSLER
LEBARON
1C3EU4533RF257303
2 DOOR - 05-113
1995 PLYMOUTH NEON
1P3ES27C4SD307503
4 DOOR - 05-157
1988 BUICK
1G4HP14C7JH437999
2 DOOR - 05-204
1987 MERCURY
2MEBM74F8HX732702
4 DOOR - 05-400
1989 DODGE
2B4FK5539KR177043
STA-WAGON - 05-454
1990 BUICK
1G4HP54C6LH556606
4 DOOR - 05-552
1993 GEO
1Y1SK5363PZ011656
4 DOOR - 05-650
2004 CHEVROLET MONTE CARLO
2G1WW12E449278153
2 DOOR - 05-732

1994 MERCURY
2MARM1489RR601339
4 DOOR - 05-742
1993 CHEVROLET
1G1JC144P7345430
2 DOOR - 05-743

1985 LINCOLN MARK VII
1MRBP98F7FY745840
2 DOOR - 05-746

1993 FORD
1FDDA35X0PZB70544
STA-WAGON - 05-747

1993 FORD
1FAPP31X9PK199934
2 DOOR - 05-750

1992 CHEVROLET "S" TRUCK
1GCCS14A3N2121519
PICKUP - 05-822

1990 PLYMOUTH
1P3XA4636LF758947
05-824

1994 PONTIAC
1G2HX52L5R4260889
4 DOOR - 05-844

1994 CHRYSLER
2C3ED46FXRH295764
4 DOOR - 05-854

1991 FORD
1FAPP15J6MW195645
4 DOOR - 05-864

1996 PONTIAC SUNFIRE
1G2JD12T0T7554404
2 DOOR - 04-A-163

1992 FORD TEMPO GL
1FAPP36X1NK106605
4 DOOR - 04-A-983

1989 PONTIAC SUNBIRD
1G2JB11K1K7533462
2 DOOR - 04-A-1035

1992 PONTIAC
1G2JB14T5N7534168
2 DOOR - 05-A-80

The second auction will begin promptly at 11:00am at Westland Car Care, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

2 Dr Black
JT2ST67L6J7245633

1992 Nissan Stanza
4 Dr Black
JN1FU21PONX892886

1997 Dodge Stratus
4 Dr White
1B3EJ46X8VN563856

1995 Dodge Spirit
4 Dr Blue
1B3AA4638SF535234

1991 Ford T-Bird
2 Dr White
1FAPP60T0MH165034

1990 Ford Escort
4 Dr Tan
1FAPP9593LW106827

1995 Plymouth Neon
4 Dr Red
1P3S27C6SD556823

1995 Ford Contour
4 Dr Purple
1FALP67L9SK126205

The second auction will begin promptly at 11:00am at Westland Car Care, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

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Wayne, MI 48184
734-326-1114

February 22, 2005
1:00 P.M.

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Cash Only

1992 GMC
1GKDM15Z1NB508397

1994 Chrysler
2C3HL56T6RH332868

1987 Oldsmobile
1G3AJ51R4HD308613

1991 Ford
1FAPP11J3MW287592

1996 Dodge
1B3ES42C9TD594245

1995 Ford
3FASP13J2SR194117

1989 Ford
1FAPP64R7KH213981

1991 Chevrolet
1G1JC14G7M7237633

1990 Chrysler
1C3XV66R5ND842264

1989 Pontiac
1G2WP14W4KF234348

1993 Buick
1G4HP53L2PH430766

1990 Ford Econoline
1FTHS34H3LHB16412

1992 Toyota
JT2EL46B7N0198007

AUTO AUCTION
J & T Crova Towing
36573 Grant St.

Romulus, MI 48174
(734) 941-0221

February 24, 2005
@ 9:00 AM

1992 FORD AEROSTAR
1FMDA11U1NZ76251

STA-WAGON - 04-13190

1990 FORD
1FAPP6049LH206459

2 DOOR - 05-147

1992 SATURN
1G8ZJ5473NZ199292

4 DOOR - 05-200

1990 FORD
1FAPP9199LT155005

2 DOOR - 05-273

1991 CHRYSLER
1C3XJ453XMG115261

2 DOOR - 05-308

1994 FORD
1FTEE14Y4RH47675

VAN - 05-315

1993 FORD TEMPO
1FAPP31X9PK228347

2 DOOR - 05-373

1996 FORD CONTOUR
1FALP67L7TK103877

4 DOOR - 05-539

1988 CHEVROLET
1G1AW51W6J6237005

4 DOOR - 05-558

1980 CHEVROLET
1Z87HAS410942

2 DOOR - 05-591

1992 PLYMOUTH
VOYAGER
2P4GH25K9NR688540

STA-WAGON - 05-719

1987 FORD ESCORT
2FABP219XHB135788

2 DOOR - 05-860

1985 FORD
1FTBR10A6FUA39772

734-699-3232

PICKUP - 05-872
1998 CHEVROLET

CAVALIER
1G1JC5246W7165343

4 DOOR - 05-A-22

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(734) 390-3939

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Romulus, MI 48174

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FEBRUARY 24TH

2005 11:00am

1995 FORD AEROSTAR
1FMDA31X4SZA30253

STA-WAGON - 05-178

1990 FORD
1FAPP9591LW106468

4 DOOR - 05-349

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THE SCENE

On the road

Touring company brings productions to Canton

John Counts
Staff Writer

The first touring production to come to the Canton Township Village Theater is sort of a homecoming for Arts Coordinator Jennifer Tobin, only this time home is coming to her.

The playwright and troupe of actors coming to Canton as part of the Sean O'Leary Play Festival starting this weekend hail from West Virginia, where Tobin grew up and got her start with the Towngate Theater.

"This is so dear to my heart. Anyone who comes will be so happy they did," she said.

The festival features two plays, *Pound*, which starts at 8 p.m. Feb. 17-19 and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 20, and *Rain in the Hollows*, which starts at 8 p.m. Feb. 24-26 and at 2 p.m. on Feb. 27.

Pound tells the tale of American poet Ezra Pound, who enjoyed an illustrious literary career in the 1920s, but raised controversy when he began broadcasting radio rants in support of Fascism in Italy. He was ultimately declared insane and sent back to America.

The second play, *Rain in the Hollows*, is about a journalist who returns to his native West Virginia to confront his larger-than-life brother whose legendary deeds are accompanied by a maddening disregard for rules, laws, or the conse-

quences of his struggling family.

Pound isn't the first literary personage O'Leary's taken on. His first play, *Wine to Blood*, is based on the Spanish Civil War experiences of pre-1984

George Orwell. Even though his father, Harold O'Leary (who is the artistic director for the Towngate Theater and will be performing the role of Ezra Pound), has been involved with the theater for years, O'Leary was leery of following in those footsteps.

Instead, he got

into the

marketing consulting business and didn't have an authorial inkling until he read Orwell's memoir of his war experiences, *Homage to Catalonia*. It inspired him to write a play about it.

"I was fascinated by what would motivate someone to throw themselves in front of bullets. It turned out that writing a play is the best way to understand human nature."

he said.

Six years and four plays later, O'Leary's work has won awards and received widespread production—which will now include Michigan for the first time.

"It's going to be a lot of fun. There's been a great deal of excitement involved," O'Leary said.

Bringing original plays to the Village Theater is something Tobin would like to do more of. She said while musicals and the old stand-bys are always fun, there's nothing like

helping break in new talent.

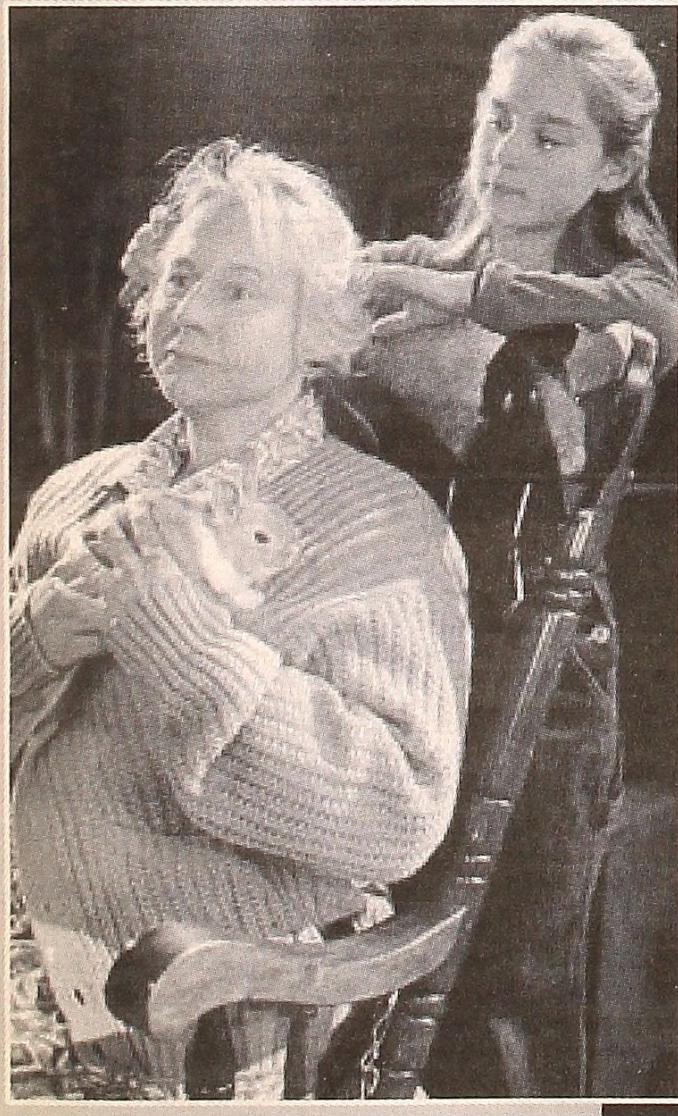
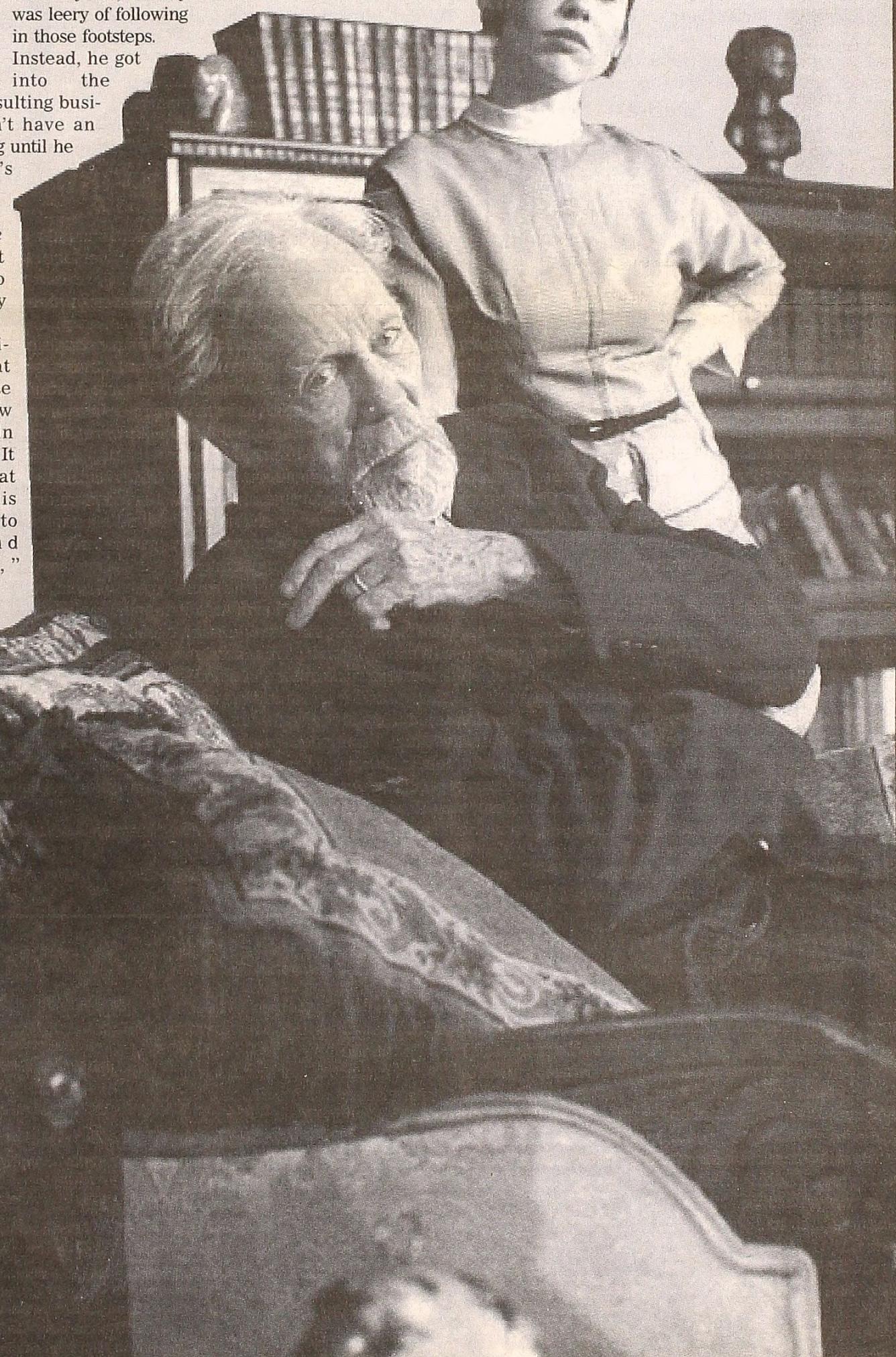
O'Leary was quick to thank Tobin for giving him the chance to bring his play to Canton.

"It's so important that there are venues that do plays like this," he said.

Tickets for the shows can be purchased beforehand for \$12 at the Summit on the Park or two hours prior to the performance at the Village Theater box office. For more information, call (734)394-5460.

*This is so dear
to my heart.
Anyone who
comes will be
so happy they did.*

Jennifer Tobin



THE SCENE

Northville author publishes book of poetry

Jonah Magar
Staff Writer

I Need You to Know, a collection of poetry designed to aid loving relationships by Northville resident H. Thomas Saylor, recently hit store shelves.

For the last 20 years, Saylor has managed business communications, but he recently began a career as a published author in addition to being an independent consultant.

I Need You to Know is Saylor's first publication, although he does have a novel in the works for release sometime in 2006. The novel, *Three Days In December*, is a fictional piece addressing relationships and

destiny.

"It's just something that has been on my 'to-do list' for a long time," Saylor said. He explained that he just reached a point in his career where he had time to finally devote to creative writing.

Over the years, Saylor generated a body of poetry that he consolidated to create the book.

Originally, the plan was to make the poetry into some kind of greeting card line. Once he collected it, however, Saylor found more than he realized he had.

In putting together *I Need You to Know*, Saylor drew together an overall objective of helping couples learn to love more deeply and nurture their relationships.

*He showed us
that creative writing
could be associated
with people
that are strong
in other ways.*

"It's all about learning how to love and be loved," Saylor said.

I Need You to Know features an introduction on relationship development, a relationship journal and a self-assessment aid, as well as a dedication page for couples to personalize their copies.

The book is available at retailers including Plymouth businesses Michigan Made and More, Ribar Floral, and in gift baskets from the House of Bread.

Saylor grew up with his mother and two sisters, and an aunt who helped a lot, he said. His father died due to heart complications in his 40s.

Even so, Saylor's father was an influence on his writing.

"He was a romantic," Saylor said. He added that he was lucky to have read his father's work.

Born and raised in Detroit, Saylor attended Lutheran West High School, where football coach Dennis Toumi influenced him.

"He was a tough guy," Saylor

said, but sometimes, when rain struck the football team, he would read to them. Often, he read poetry. "He showed us that creative writing could be associated with people that are strong in other ways."

Toumi still coaches wrestling at Lutheran Westland.

Saylor's work draws from his own experiences as well as those of people he knows. He watches others' relationships and how they care (or don't care) for them. He also witnesses strains on relationships, and notices detrimental as well as positive results.

Saylor enjoys spending time at his summer lake cottage at Harsens Island in Michigan, whether it's to write or just relax.

Science center offers fun for spring break

As students leave their schoolyards in the upcoming weeks with visions of Mid-Winter Break and days filled with playtime, the New Detroit Science Center is counting on an influx of families planning to fill the lull in their schedules with a mix of entertainment and education.

"Everything is hands-on," said Matthew Birman, public relations coordinator for the New Detroit Science Center.

The center touches on areas of science ranging from life in a rainforest to motion. Even music plays a starring role.

"We have the new Jam Room, which is an exhibit on the Science of Music," said Birman.

Free shows on other scientific topics are presented year-round throughout the building. A special play area—with activities geared for preschool age children—is available for younger scholars.

"You can spend the whole day here just exploring the five laboratories," said Birman. He added, however, that the main exhibitions are only the tip of the iceberg.

From Feb. 20-26, for instance, visitors will be able to participate in several special activities related to Engineer's Week, including straw tower building competitions, make-and-take craft activities, and free live stage shows on engineering-related careers and principles.

Tired guests can rest as they learn more about the world around them in the IMAX Dome Theater.

At the moment, however, one of the biggest draws is a special show called Monster Truck: An Xtreme Exhibit. The section showcases the supersized vehicles known for destroying just about anything placed in their path in an attempt to teach people about the scientific principles behind them. Visitors not only learn what gives the trucks such power and the engineering that goes into their creation, but also find out about the safety systems used to keep drivers secure despite crashes and rollovers.

In the next two weeks, the center will extend its hours to cope with mid-winter break traffic. Today and tomorrow, it will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Hours will be 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Feb. 19, noon-6 p.m. on Feb. 20, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 21-25.

The science center is located at 5020 John R Street in downtown Detroit, across the street from the Detroit Institute of Arts. For more information, please visit their web site at www.detroitsciencecenter.org.

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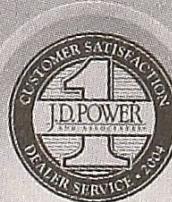
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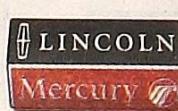
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